

PRELIMINARY SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMITTEES

(updated February 11, 2021, 8:55pm)

IDEA PRESENTED	WHO RECCOM'd
CHARTER REVIEW PROCESS - Preamble, nuts & bolts	<i>see also R O'Connell</i>
Consider how the ' Preamble ' to the Charter could be written more as a 'vision statement' for how we see our County in 10 years and beyond, and how the Charter can be used to help the Local Government and the population of the County achieve that vision. current Preamble is not inspiring; how would we like the Charter to work for us over the next 10 years?	Jane Fuller
The Preamble to the County Charter should be expanded. *By identifying the activities, goals, and objectives of the SJC government residents will be stating what they believe in and what they want their county government to pursue. What do we want our gov't to look like? Pull language from Earth Charter?	Anne Marie Shanks
Preambles are aspirational; they can help with interpretation but aren't substantive. We need to get to the substantive work first.	Bill Appel
Preamble/Bill of Rights/Vision Statement	David Dehlendorf
Philosophy and purpose of the Charter	Richard Grout
Undertake a thorough review of what has not been working well for our County Government since the last Review, and ensure that representative voices of women, men, youth (girls / boys), the elderly (women / men), people of color, minority groups, the marginalized voices in our society, and other people of diverse backgrounds are heard when presentations are put forward to the CRC. Also to be consulted should be the business community across the County. <i>(DDehlendorf-this is a means to an end)</i>	Jane Fuller, Kyle Davies, David Dehlendorf
Uphold the proposed changes and amendments made by the voters to the Charter under the last CRC unless sufficient evidence is given that there are weaknesses that have emerged from such amendments. If such evidence is put forward, that it be heard and discussed.	Jane Fuller
Can we conceive of ways in which the State Government might attempt to intervene in our local governance - should we have safeguards in place for this? <i>[2/3/21-Randy Gaylord clarified that the State cannot intervene]</i>	Jane Fuller
Bring in expertise and experience from outside our County to share experiences and lessons in creative ways Home Rule Charter counties and their local governments, in WA and beyond, are flexing to adapt to a rapidly changing world in order to serve their communities in a sustainable, responsible, and representative way.	Jane Fuller
Institute ways to ground review process in lessons from past years	Liz Lafferty
Should the charter be more specific about what kinds of support the county must provide to the CRC ? Develop language in Section 9.22 to fill out the resources needed by the CRC to carry out their duties and functions	Richard Grout, Kyle Davies, Maureen See
Ensure Charter contains commonly held values and priorities	Kyle Davies
The suggestions are all valid in their way, but sometimes things need not be included in the charter document that could be acted upon by the elected Council instead and a vote of the people, like the GMO restriction.	Patty Garcia
ELECTED vs APPOINTED	<i>see also R O'Connell</i>
Consider Election vs. appointment of the current elected officials. Cost analysis required.	Kevin Ranker, Jane Fuller, David Dehlendorf
Appointed positions allow for greater pool of qualified people, Add clearer language regarding minimum qualifications for elected officials	Maureen See, Richard Grout

IDEA PRESENTED	WHO RECCOM'd
ELECTED vs APPOINTED continued --	
The County Health Officer should be an elected position or the distribution of power should go back to the Commissioners during a state of emergency (pandemic times) for decision making.	Olivia Roseberry
Term limits for elected positions. Is this something we should consider?	Janet Brownell, Kevin Ranker, Kyle Davies
Art. 5, Sec. 5.31 Term Limits for County Council members-limit to 8 years	Tom Starr, Maureen See, Olivia Roseberry
Term limits can be structured to allow a candidate to sit out a term, then run in a subsequent election.	Robert O'Connell
If you resign from a county elected position, you should not be allowed to be re-elected to the position or similar position of power.	Olivia Roseberry
Manager or County Executive? (would possibly change the structure of our government, depending on the powers given to the office)	Patty Garcia
Election vs. appointment of the Manager: Many others have raised with me the need to review the County Manager position. I believe a review the county manager scope of work, authority and function and appointment vs. election could be valuable. If we review the duties of the County Manager and make any changes, we will need to review the duties of the county council as their function will likely assume duties not covered by the manager.	Kevin Ranker, Janet Brownell, Kyle Davies
ELECTIONS - residency vs. countywide, election observing	Consolidate?
Election of Charter Review Commission (CRC): Consider changing the election of the CRC to county wide for all candidates.	Kevin Ranker, Maureen See, Kyle Davies
Sections 5.20, 5.30, 5.31 - Change any reference to residency district to legislative district	Paul Dossett
Election Observing - Add a section: Elections shall be observable-from drop box pickup of ballots to counting to verification. Elections department will be open to all parties, giving information to all parties' chairperson regarding drobox pickup times, ballot box opening times, signature verification processes, ballot processing times, ballot counting times, and counting machine accuracy testing.	Tom Starr
INITIATIVE & REFERENDUM PROCESS	
Striking Section 6.21 of the Charter's the financial clause that limits our right of initiative . I worry that it is used by county government leaders to squelch vote's intentions for engaging and changing policy that are being neglected by elected officials. Council and managers make many decisions without the specifics of revenues being considers. It's unjust to apply this higher standard upon petitioners.	Dave Anderson
The CRC should enact changes to the initiative and referendum process to enable residents to successfully exercise their fundamental rights. Allow electronic signatures . Review number of signatures required.	Anne Marie Shanks
Gathering of signatures during the initiative process. In ARTICLE 6 - THE PUBLIC INTEREST, Section 6.22 - Initiative - Procedures (3), insert the following between the first and the second sentences: When the Prosecuting Attorney certifies that circumstances make the gathering of traditional signatures impractical (e.g.: during a pandemic), electronic signatures will suffice.	Robert O'Connell
Section 6.22, 6.41 - Change 15 percent to 10 percent	Paul Dossett
Section 6.30 - Change 3 percent to 2 percent	Paul Dossett
Adequately define mini initiative	Kyle Davies
Modification of procedures during emergency periods (pandemic)	Kyle Davies

IDEA PRESENTED	WHO RECCOM'd
GOVERNANCE - County Council, boards & commissions, budget, transparency, individual islands	
Should the auditor and treasurer's depts be consolidated ? Would it be more cost effective to have one CFO and deputy than two depts?	Maureen See, Kyle Davies
Section 2.10 - Should the number of council members be expanded to 5 or some other number? The review and interviews that Jane has proposed will help us answer this question. Even if no change is proposed, the first line of Section 2.10 needs to be amended to start with "The legislative and executive authority" instead of just "The legislative authority".	David Dehlendorf
Strike the current Section 2.42 text and replace with: The County Council's sole connection to the operations of the district is through the County Manager. Only the County Council's approved motions in the record are binding on the County Manager. All authority and accountability for San Juan County employees is under the purview of the County Manager and not the County Council. 4.40 County Manager 4.41 Duties	Tony Ghazel
Bringing a little bit more democracy to the grass roots level. In ARTICLE 2 - THE COUNTY COUNCIL , Section 2.41 - Rules of Procedure, add the following to the end of the section: At a minimum, those rules must include the opportunity, at every County Council meeting, for any San Juan County resident who is present, to address the Council members about issues which are on the Council's docket, or about any other issue properly within the purview of the Council. Each resident speaking must be allotted a minimum of five minutes to speak. At least one member of the Council must respond orally at the time, addressing the resident's concern.	Robert O'Connell
Section 2.7(a) Enumerate what departments are under their supervision	Tony Ghazel
Emergency powers of the County Council - Limit the time period to the actual emergency, or two weeks maximum. Then Council deals with it in a Legislative manner. Re: Art. 2, Sec. 2.52	Tom Starr
Section 2.3. (a) May ask the voters to levy new taxes, can appropriate revenue and adopt budgets for the county.	Tony Ghazel
The relationship between the council and the manager is a bit ambiguous so to that end we should review that relationship: Sections 2.40, 2.41, 2.42, 4.10, 4.40, 4.41	Tony Ghazel
Should the county manager be required to have a deputy ? The job is too big for one person. Electeds are required to have a deputy. Why not the manager? Cost analysis required	Richard Grout, Maureen See
Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the of County Council – are they meeting citizen's expectations? Does CC do what they are supposed to do?	Maureen See
Create a platform to utilize Act XI Section 16 of the State Constitution. Extending our right to create local island municipalities for their own self-governance will facilitate and inspire potentially endless benefits to our islands and county. I have inquired with some questions from MSRC and they have affirmed that this is possible.	Dave Anderson
Each island should be incorporated and have self governance. This should not be to separate from the county, but to be a benefit to the each island and to work with the county for further future success and sustainability.	Olivia Roseberry, David Dehlendorf
Prioritize creation and expansion of oversight and provision of social and behavioral health services	Kyle Davies

IDEA PRESENTED	WHO RECCOM'd
GOVERNANCE , continued --	
Public and appropriate structure for citizens' committees : Consideration of the role of citizens' boards and committees within the county government structure - their duties, authority, appointment and scope of work. Their appointment should have a public vote with transparent and public posted policies regarding qualifications required	Kevin Ranker
Board members/committee members should have to pass a background check initially, and receive random UA's throughout their term, just like county employees.	Olivia Roseberry
Should the county manager , not the auditor, prepare the budget? The manager currently oversees 60 percent of the county budget. We have had auditors (though not currently, I believe) who had very little understanding of the non-elected department budgets, which tend to be the more complex ones, but they were preparing those budgets.	Richard Grout
Copies of the budget should be online . Re: Art. 7, Sec. 7.41	Tom Starr
Once the contract for the SJI's Visitors Bureau (VB) ends (in two years?) – move tourism promotion away from an outside entity into a new dept. within county government. My bigger idea is to make the Director of this Department an elected official. I am not sure if the RCW covers this. Research is needed. Conflict during pandemic. Return to County w/LTAC \$? How do we want to support the environment? Elected?	Janet Brownell
OPERATIONS - personnel, county procedures, public records	
Section 4.10 - List the names of "such additional departments, offices and agencies as the County Council may deem necessary" as exist today, while giving the council the authority to add additional ones as needed. Missing names that come to mind include Dept. of Community Development, Health Dept., and Elections. I realize that this is a housekeeping item, but readers of the charter have reason to expect a list of all departments, not just a reference to other additional departments. Also, do we want to leave the charter as is that gives the council authority to determine which departments report to it and which report directly to the county manager?	David Dehlendorf
The charter says the council has the authority to create a personnel system but it doesn't define what that is or elaborate. Add language to Personnel Manual reinforcing that all depts are bound by the same rules, one county, one personnel manual	Maureen See, Richard Grout, Kyle Davies, David Dehlendorf
Add language to Personnel Manual reinforcing diversity, anti-bullying, respect	Sharon Abreu
Evaluate departmental/employee satisfaction of current chain of command/protection from executive pressure(s)	Kyle Davies
Create an Ombudsman position (either elected or appointed by statute) to audit of FTE/workloads of every department every 4 years and serve as an avenue for complaint mediation. Public advocate (http://www.seattle.gov/ombud)	Dave Anderson
County ombudsman (ombudsperson) office and position should be created. They would be a guide to anyone that calls in with questions of how to get help or answers. They would be the networker for the county of where they connect residents to the department/person that they need.	Olivia Roseberry, Kyle Davies, David Dehlendorf
Evaluate, and potentially expand, employee evaluation/satisfaction process for County Manager	Kyle Davies
Making records available to public & without fee	Maureen See
Transparency in Public Records	Kyle Davies

IDEA PRESENTED	WHO RECCOM'd
OPERATIONS, continued --	
<p>Records should be available to the public. I worked in two county depts where I scanned hundreds of documents for public search. Software was purchased for both depts, no completion of either project docs? occurred. How much did the county spend and what happened the scanned</p>	Maureen See
<p>Provision of Public Records- The County should be more prompt in furnishing information and records. Add the word "prompt" where applicable in Section 10.50-Information Management - - - "shall maintain a means to store and maintain, in a PROMPT retrievable manner," etc.</p>	Tom Starr
<p>Our county should have a data base that is accessible to the public for free via the county web site. Transparency should be the goal. Residents do not trust "the county". Re-establishment of trust in elected officials and our government should be a top priority.</p>	Olivia Roseberry
CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT	
<p>The Charter Review Commission (CRC) should create an Office of Climate Policy with an independently elected full-time San Juan County Climate Commissioner. *As head of this new small office the independently elected will have the authority and influence to advance a powerful climate agenda for the SJ Islands.</p>	<i>see also R O'Connell</i> Anne Marie Shanks, Kyle Davies, David Dehlendorf
<p>Is the Charter and the current structure of the Local Government going to be able to serve our County effectively in the next decade (2021 - 30, in line with the UN Agenda 2030 and the Global Sustainable Development Goals) to enable our local government to manage the following challenges and realities we face: a. The impacts of climate change on our County in terms of economic, environmental and human / animal welfare (including issues of affordable housing, employment, and the negative impacts on our local habitat due to climates changes). Any revisions to the Charter need to look 10 years ahead and beyond, and have the best interests of 'all' in our County. Remarkable, and as yet unknown changes will occur in this County, our State, the Country and the globe over the next 10 years at an unthinkable pace, and there will be significant implications for the population of this County. b. Consider the alignment that may be necessary for this Charter to have with the 'evergreen' multi-year Comprehensive Plan of the County and the Economic Development Plan.</p>	Jane Fuller, Kyle Davies
<p>Consider the alignment that may be necessary for this Charter to have with the 'evergreen' multi-year Comprehensive Plan of the County and the Economic Development Plan.</p>	Jane Fuller
<p>A resilience officer (Elected? Appointed?)* with specified powers whose input is developed through community councils whose jurisdiction is determined by watershed or relevant biological/ecological distinctions sufficient to comply with "consistency" requirements of the GMA. *https://www.utilitydive.com/news/honolulu-resilience-officer-outlines-path-to-carbon-neutrality/593772/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Issue:%202021-01-22%20Utility%20Dive%20Newsletter%20%5Bissue:32035%5D&utm_term=Utility%20Dive. The website for the Honolulu Office of Resilience is: https://resilientoahu.org/</p>	Bill Appel
JUSTICE & EQUITY	
<p>Creation of an independent citizen's law and justice oversight committee</p>	Kevin Ranker
<p>Is the Charter and the current structure of the Local Government going to be able to serve our County effectively in terms of having respect for the equal and equitable rights of all regardless of sex, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic class, ability, etc.?</p>	Jane Fuller

IDEA PRESENTED	WHO RECCOM'd
JUSTICE & EQUITY, continued --	
Deepen/Broaden incorporation of indigenous native values , perspectives, problem solving in County structure	Kyle Davies
Expand recruitment of/inclusion of regional native individuals in government elected, appointed office and civil service	Kyle Davies
Entertain development of a County-level Consular office for Foreign (Canadian) and Native (Tribal) Affairs	Kyle Davies
Proactively incentivize younger and multicultural populations into local Government elected/appointed/decision-making positions	Kyle Davies